

permit evaluation of whether the offer should be accepted, that the offer was submitted solely to delay collection, or that the offer was otherwise nonprocessable, then the IRS may levy to collect the liability that is the subject of that offer at any time after it returns the offer to the taxpayer.

(5) *Offsets under section 6402.* Notwithstanding the evaluation and processing of an offer to compromise, the IRS may, in accordance with section 6402, credit any overpayments made by the taxpayer against a liability that is the subject of an offer to compromise and may offset such overpayments against other liabilities owed by the taxpayer to the extent authorized by section 6402.

(6) *Proceedings in court.* Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph (g)(6), the IRS will not refer a case to the Department of Justice for the commencement of a proceeding in court, against a person named in a pending offer to compromise, if levy to collect the liability is prohibited by paragraph (g)(1) of this section. Without regard to whether a person is named in a pending offer to compromise, however, the IRS may authorize the Department of Justice to file a counterclaim or third-party complaint in a refund action or to join that person in any other proceeding in which liability for the tax that is the subject of the pending offer to compromise may be established or disputed, including a suit against the United States under 28 U.S.C. 2410. In addition, the United States may file a claim in any bankruptcy proceeding or insolvency action brought by or against such person.

(h) *Deposits.* Sums submitted with an offer to compromise a liability or during the pendency of an offer to compromise are considered deposits and will not be applied to the liability until the offer is accepted unless the taxpayer provides written authorization for application of the payments. If an offer to compromise is withdrawn, is determined to be nonprocessable, or is submitted solely for purposes of delay and returned to the taxpayer, any amount tendered with the offer, including all installments paid on the offer, will be refunded without interest. If an offer is rejected, any amount tendered

with the offer, including all installments paid on the offer, will be refunded, without interest, after the conclusion of any review sought by the taxpayer with Appeals. Refund will not be required if the taxpayer has agreed in writing that amounts tendered pursuant to the offer may be applied to the liability for which the offer was submitted.

(i) *Statute of limitations—(1) Suspension of the statute of limitations on collection.* The statute of limitations on collection will be suspended while levy is prohibited under paragraph (g)(1) of this section.

(2) *Extension of the statute of limitations on assessment.* For any offer to compromise, the IRS may require, where appropriate, the extension of the statute of limitations on assessment. However, in any case where waiver of the running of the statutory period of limitations on assessment is sought, the taxpayer must be notified of the right to refuse to extend the period of limitations or to limit the extension to particular issues or particular periods of time.

(j) *Inspection with respect to accepted offers to compromise.* For provisions relating to the inspection of returns and accepted offers to compromise, see section 6103(k)(1).

(k) *Effective date.* This section applies to offers to compromise pending on or submitted on or after July 18, 2002.

[T.D. 9007, 67 FR 48029, July 23, 2002; 67 FR 53879, Aug. 20, 2002]

Crimes, Other Offenses, and Forfeitures

CRIMES

GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 301.7207-1 Fraudulent returns, statements, or other documents.

Any person who willfully delivers or discloses to any officer or employee of the Internal Revenue Service any list, return, account, statement, or other document, known by him to be fraudulent or to be false as to any material matter, shall be fined not more than \$1,000, or imprisoned not more than 1

year, or both. Any person required pursuant to section 6047 (b) or (c) or, section 6104(d), to furnish information to any officer or employee of the Internal Revenue Service or any other person who willfully furnishes to such officer or employee of the Internal Revenue Service or such other person any information known by him to be fraudulent or to be false as to any material matter shall be fined not more than \$1,000, or imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both.

[T.D. 7127, 36 FR 11505, June 15, 1971, as amended by T.D. 8026, 50 FR 20758, May 20, 1985]

§ 301.7209-1 Unauthorized use or sale of stamps.

(a) Any person who buys, sells, offers for sale, uses, transfers, takes or gives in exchange, or pledges or gives in pledge, except as authorized in the Code or in regulations made pursuant thereto, any stamp, coupon, ticket, book, or other device prescribed by the Commissioner under the Code for the collection or payment of any tax imposed by the Code, shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined not more than \$1,000, or imprisoned not more than 6 months, or both.

(b) For use or resale of unused documentary stamps, see paragraph (c) of § 43.6802-1 of this chapter (Documentary Stamp Tax Regulations).

§ 301.7214-1 Offenses by officers and employees of the United States.

Any officer or employee of the United States acting in connection with any revenue law of the United States required to make a written report under the provisions of section 7214(a)(8) shall submit such report to the Commissioner, or to a regional commissioner or district director.

§ 301.7216-1 Penalty for disclosure or use of tax return information.

(a) *In general.* Section 7216(a) provides in effect that, except as provided in section 7216(b), any tax return preparer (as described in paragraph (b)(2) of this section) who on or after January 1, 1972, discloses or uses any tax return information (as described in paragraph (b)(3) of this section) other than for the specific purpose of preparing, assisting

in preparing, or obtaining or providing services in connection with the preparation of, any tax return of the taxpayer by or for whom the information was made available to a tax return preparer, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$1,000, or imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both, together with the costs of prosecution. Pursuant to section 7216(b), the provisions of section 7216(a) and this paragraph do not apply to any disclosure or use permitted under § 301.7216-2 or § 301.7216-3.

(b) *Definitions.* For purposes only of section 7216 and §§ 301.7216-1 through 301.7216-3—

(1) *Tax return.* The term “tax return” means any return (or amended return) of the income tax imposed by chapter 1 or 2 of the Code, or any declaration (or amended declaration) of estimated tax made under section 6015.

(2) *Tax return preparer.* (i) The term tax return preparer means any person—

(A) Who is engaged in the business of preparing tax returns,

(B) Who is engaged in the business of providing auxiliary services in connection with the preparation of tax returns,

(C) Who is remunerated for preparing, or assisting in preparing, a tax return for any other person, or

(D) Any individual who, as part of his duties or employment with any person described in (A), (B), or (C) of this subdivision, performs services which assist in the preparation of, or assist in providing auxiliary services in connection with the preparation of, a tax return.

For example, assume that a bank is a tax return preparer within the meaning of (A) of this subdivision and it employs one individual to solicit the necessary tax return information for the preparation of a tax return and another individual to prepare the return on the basis of the information that is furnished. Under these circumstances, both employees are tax return preparers. Also, for example, a secretary to a tax return preparer who types or otherwise works on returns prepared by the preparer is a tax return preparer.